



THOMAS L. GARTHWAITE, M.D.
Director and Chief Medical Officer

FRED LEAF
Chief Operating Officer

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES
313 N. Figueroa, Los Angeles, CA 90012
(213) 240-8101

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January 20, 2005

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**APPROVE THE ACQUISITION OF CARDIAC CATHETERIZATION
LABORATORY EQUIPMENT AT HARBOR-UCLA MEDICAL CENTER**
(2nd District) (3 Votes)

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Approve the Department of Health Services' equipment request for a motorized mobile C-arm cinefluoroscopy unit for the cardiac catheterization laboratory at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center, and authorize the Purchasing Agent to proceed with the equipment acquisition.
2. Approve the attached appropriation adjustment in the total amount of \$321,000 for the equipment purchase from Harbor-UCLA Medical Center's Fiscal Year 2004-05 Operating Budget by transferring that amount from Services and Supplies (S&S) to Fixed Assets. The 5-year service agreement cost of \$64,000 associated with this equipment will be funded from existing resources (S&S).

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

In approving the recommended actions, your Board is authorizing the purchase of major fixed asset equipment and approving an appropriation adjustment for \$321,000 for cardiac catheterization laboratory (cath lab) equipment at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center (Harbor). The equipment request complies with the County Equipment Policy that your Board approved on October 16, 2001, which requires Board approval prior to a department's purchasing/financing equipment with a unit cost of \$250,000 or greater.

On November 30, 2004, the Board approved the establishment of a capital project for the replacement of the cath labs at Harbor and Olive View-UCLA (Olive View) Medical Centers and an appropriation adjustment in the amount of \$11,811,000 (\$7,866,000 at Harbor and \$3,945,000 at Olive View). The cath labs at both facilities are expected to be completed as a turn-key project in 12 months.

However, two key problems have recently surfaced at Harbor with the equipment's power supply internal control and image quality. The immediate acquisition of a mobile motorized C-arm cinefluoroscopy unit (C-arm) is required to ensure Harbor has fully operational equipment to evaluate and treat cardiac patients.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING:

The total cost for the equipment purchase, including a 5-year service agreement, is \$385,000. Harbor plans to fund the purchase from its Fiscal Year 2004-05 Operating Budget. Approval of the attached appropriation adjustment will allow the transfer of \$321,000 from Harbor's S&S budget to Fixed Assets to fund this purchase. The 5-year service agreement cost of \$64,000 associated with this equipment will be funded from existing resources (S&S).

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS:

The cath lab is a room with specialized equipment for evaluating heart and blood vessels. Contrast dye is injected into patients' cardiac chambers and blood vessels and visualized with special x-ray/camera equipment. Different types of heart disease, such as blocked coronary arteries or valve disease, and peripheral blood vessel disease can be fully evaluated with this equipment.

Although the Board approved the acquisition of cath lab equipment and the remodeling of the cath labs at Harbor and Olive View on November 30, 2004, certain equipment at Harbor has been experiencing more serious maintenance and operation problems. One piece of equipment (10 years old) is not functioning at all and the other (14 years old) experiences down time almost daily. Image quality and equipment reliability have deteriorated.

Harbor had hoped to manage with its current equipment until the cath lab project was completed; however, because of frequent breakdowns, Harbor's cardiologists have determined that equipment replacement is necessary immediately. Over the past few weeks, Harbor cardiologists have been evaluating C-arms from various vendors to assess the effectiveness of the equipment and are satisfied that the C-arm equipment will meet the needs of their patients. When the cath lab project is completed in 12 months, the mobile motorized C-arm equipment proposed for purchase with the Board's approval will continue to be used at Harbor by relocating the equipment to the main operating suites to support vascular and orthopedic surgery cases.

The feasibility of transferring patients to either a community hospital, such as St. Mary's Hospital in Long Beach, or to another County facility, such as LAC+USC Medical Center, has also been explored but is not considered appropriate, due to both cost and workload issues.

Leasing the equipment was also evaluated and determined to be less cost effective than purchasing the equipment.

Olive View's cath equipment is 20 years old and has also experienced breakdowns. While awaiting completion of the cath lab project, Olive View intends to continue their current practice of transferring patients to private hospitals when their cath equipment is not available due to breakdowns or malfunctions.

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Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

This action meets the County's Strategic Plan Goal of Service Excellence by promoting best practices for patient care and the Goal of Fiscal Responsibility by investing in the public infrastructure.

Consistency with DHS System Redesign

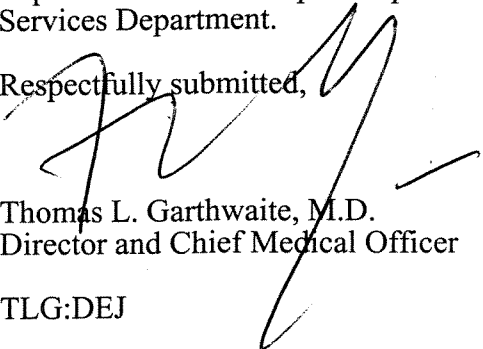
This action meets the Department's strategic goal of ensuring that quality health care is being provided.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS):

The acquisition of the motorized mobile C-arm cinefluoroscopy unit provides for continuity of current services for cardiac patients at Harbor.

Upon approval by the Board of Supervisors, the Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors is requested to return adopted copies of this letter to the Department of Health Services and Internal Services Department.

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas L. Garthwaite, M.D.
Director and Chief Medical Officer

TLG:DEJ

Attachment (2)

c: Chief Administrative Officer
County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
Auditor-Controller
Internal Services Department

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